

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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December 27, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Judicial Resources Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 24-1204 to discuss the following:

- (1) Whether to recommend to the Legislature that it form a study committee to determine whether there should be a reduction, a change, or an elimination of the judicial district boundaries in order to make the judiciary more efficient.
- (2) Consideration of the December 19, 2006, request by Juvenile Judge Toni Thorson on behalf of the juvenile judges of the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County to determine whether a new juvenile judgeship should be created in the Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County.
- (3) Consideration of the December 19, 2006, request by Lancaster County Judge Jean Lovell on behalf of the county judges of the 3rd Judicial District to determine whether a new county judgeship should be created in the 3rd Judicial District.
- (4) Consideration of the December 20, 2006, request by District Judge Randall L. Rehmeier of the 2nd Judicial District that if a vacancy occurs in the office of district judge of the 12th Judicial District that this vacancy, if not filled in the 12th Judicial District, be transferred to the 2nd Judicial District.
- (5) Consideration of the December 21, 2006, request by District Judge John P. Icenogle of the 9th Judicial District that if a vacancy occurs in the office of district judge of the 12th Judicial District that this vacancy, if not filled in the 12th Judicial District, be transferred to the 9th Judicial District.

(6) Consideration of the December 21, 2006, request by District Judge Steven D. Burns on behalf of the district judges of the 3rd Judicial District to determine whether a new district judgeship should be created in the 3rd Judicial District.

(7) Consideration of the December 22, 2006, request by County Judge Jeffrey L. Marcuzzo on behalf of the county judges of the 4th Judicial District that the Judicial Resources Commission follow its October 27, 2004, recommendation to the Legislature that the judicial vacancy created by the death of the Honorable C.G. Wallace in the county court in the 12th Judicial District be filled in the county court of the 4th Judicial District.

(8) Consideration of the December 22, 2006, request by County Judge Curtis H. Evans of the 5th Judicial District that the Judicial Resources Commission make the initial decision concerning changing the judicial boundaries and changing the number of judicial districts.

(9) Consideration of the December 22, 2006, request by Bradley C. Easland, President of the Madison County Bar Association, that the Judicial Resources Commission either add or transfer a district court judgeship to the 7th Judicial District, or redraw the boundaries of the 7th Judicial District to alleviate the high caseload of the district court judges of the 7th District.

The hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., central time. The hearing will be held via video conferencing from the State Capitol Building, Room 1525, Lincoln, Nebraska, and will include participation from the Panhandle Learning Center, 4502 Ave. I, High Plains Room, Scottsbluff, Nebraska; from the State Office Building, Room 207, Second Floor, 1313 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska; and from the Hastings Public Library, Second Floor, 517 West 4th Street, Hastings, Nebraska..

The Commission makes its determination based on weighted caseloads, adequate access to the courts by litigants, population, judicial duties, travel time and other factors necessary to assure efficiency and service of the court system.

Following the hearing, the commission will make a recommendation to the Legislature of their determination.

Commission members are:

Supreme Court Justice Michael McCormack,
Chairperson

Alan L. Brodbeck, O'Neill
Robert B. O'Neal, Papillion
Thomas F. Hoarty, Omaha
Jolanda J. Kuzma, Lincoln
Jane Morgan, Gordon

Robert P. Chaloupka, Scottsbluff
Riko E. Bishop, Lincoln
Ronald Furse, Aurora
Nicole R. Neesen, Omaha
Mark M. Sipple, Columbus

Gerald E. Moran, Omaha
Margie A. Smith, Bellevue
Sharlon Rodgers, Omaha

Robert J. Parker, Hastings
Patricia McQuillan, Greeley
D. Paul Hartnett, Bellevue

Any member of the public is entitled to attend the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission hearing in Room 1525 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, and present, either orally or in writing, any pertinent information concerning the existence of a judicial vacancy. If anyone wishes to present written material at the hearing, a copy of such material should be furnished to the Chairperson at least one week prior to the hearing.

For special accommodations relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (402) 471-3730. For persons with hearing impairments, please call the Nebraska Relay System at 711.

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